

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 19, 21 and 22. These sheets, which include Figs. 19, 21 and 22, replace the original sheets including Figs. 19, 21 and 22.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 26, 27, 30, 31, 34 and 35 are pending. Claims 1-25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36 and 37 have been canceled by this Amendment, Claims 26, 30 and 34 are amended and Figs. 19, 21 and 22 are replaced to correct informalities. No new matter is added by any of these amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at page 21, line 23 et seq. and Figs. 16 and 19-22.

The January 12, 2006 Office Action rejects Claims 26-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,434,438 to Jin et al. With respect to Claims 28, 29, 32, 33, 36 and 37, this rejection is moot. With respect to Claims 26, 27, 30, 31, 34 and 35, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

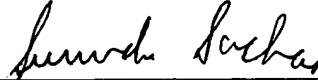
Jin does not disclose condition Formulas I, II and III as recited in amended independent Claims 26, 30 and 34 and disclosed in Figs. 19, 21 and 22. Instead, the evaluation equation in Jin at column 18, lines 10-20 does not relate to a useful life time of a product, worth life time of a product, useful life time of a part, worth life time of a part, time lag of a product, and production period of a product. In Jin, evaluation items are disclosed at column 15, lines 20-32.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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